

MARYLAND AGRI-FACTS



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CHICKENS & EGGS

Maryland: Laying flocks in Maryland producing States produced 68 million eggs during August 2004, up 11 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during August, at 3.1 million, was up 8 percent from a year ago.

United States: Egg production totaled 7.52 billion during August 2004, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.43 billion table eggs and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 60.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during August 2004 averaged 342 million, up 2 percent from a year earlier. August egg production per 100 layers was 2,197 eggs, down slightly from August 2003.

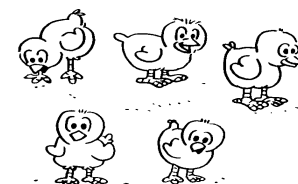
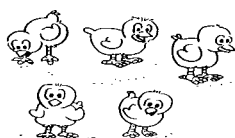
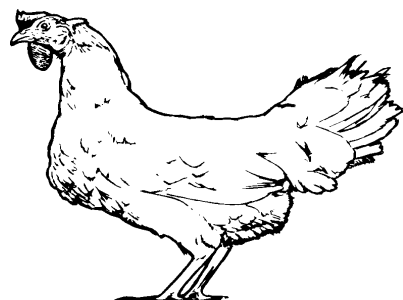
Egg-type chicks hatched during August totaled 36.0 million, up 9 percent from August 2003. Eggs in incubators totaled 32.5 million on September 1, 2004, up 1 percent from a year ago. Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 313,000 during August 2004, up 66 percent from August 2003.

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Eggs and Layers: August 2003 and 2004

Item	2003	2004	2004/2003
Eggs Produced During August	Million		Percent
U.S.	7,367	7,515	102
Maryland	61	68	111
Layers, Average Number During	Thousand		
U.S.	334,332	342,039	102
Maryland	2,827	3,066	108
Eggs / 100 Layers During August	Number		
U.S.	2,203	2,197	100
Maryland	2,158	2,218	103



AGRICULTURAL PRICES

Maryland corn, barley and soybean prices declined in September, while winter wheat prices are up. Wheat is up \$0.20 per bushel from August, and barley prices are down by \$0.05 per bushel. Corn prices are down \$0.03 per acre and soybean prices are down by \$.32 per bushel.

Cattle and hog prices were both down last month but higher than a year ago. Cattle prices fell \$0.80 per hundredweight from August, and hogs were down \$1.80. Broiler and chicken prices are both up from August and a year ago.

Prices Received, Maryland, Delaware & United States, August & September 2004

Commodity	Unit	Maryland and Delaware			United States			
		Sept 2003	Aug 2004	Sept 2004	Sept 2003	Aug 2004	Sept 2004	Parity Price
Dollars								
Wheat, Winter	BU	3.12	2.86	3.06	3.31	3.19	3.36	9.98
Corn	BU	2.47	2.57	2.54	2.20	2.34	2.13	6.70
Barley	BU	1.71	1.86	1.81	2.88	2.79	2.56	6.65
Soybeans	BU	5.86	6.74	6.42	6.06	6.83	5.77	15.80
All Hay, Baled	TON	149.00	140.00	120.00	82.10	89.80	87.70	----
All Beef Cattle	CWT	83.90	80.60	79.80	84.90	88.90	86.30	169.00
Calves	CWT	88.50	103.20	90.20	109.00	131.00	129.00	226.00
Hogs	CWT	42.60	51.00	49.20	39.70	55.40	53.70	105.00
Chickens	LB	0.086	0.102	0.107	----	----	----	----
Broilers	LB	0.322	0.387	0.400	0.370	0.460	0.400	----
Turkeys, Live	LB	----	----	----	0.362	0.454	0.465	1.020
Eggs, Market	DOZ	0.726	0.445	0.411	0.633	0.334	0.351	1.68

Index of Prices Received, United States, August 2004 with Comparisons

Index and Ratios	September 2003	August 2004	September 2004
<i>1990-92=100</i>			
All Farm Products	111	120	114
All Crops	111	118	111
Food Grains	110	*112	120
Feed Grains & Hay	*100	*108	98
Oil- Bearing Crops	97	*121	94
Fruits & Nuts	*124	*126	138
Livestock and Products	110	*123	118
Meat Animals	108	*122	119
Dairy Products	111	115	116
Poultry and Eggs	115	131	118
Ratio ¹	87	90	86
Prices Paid Index	128	134	133

*Revised

¹ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

CROP PRODUCTION

This Crop Report is the result of the September Agricultural Survey and October Agricultural Yield Survey. We wish to thank the approximately 900 farmers who helped to make this report possible.

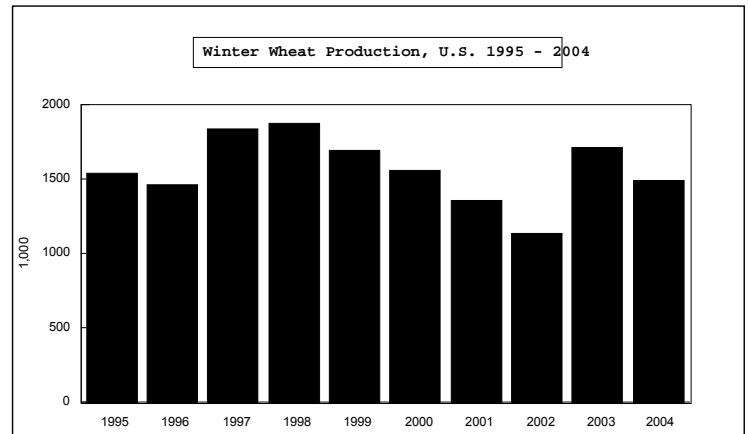
Maryland: Based on October 1 crop conditions, **corn** is forecast to yield 152 bushels per acre, up 9 bushels per acre from last month's forecast of 143 bushels per acre. This compares favorably to the record-setting yield of 155 bushels per acre set in 2000. With an anticipated harvest of 420,000 acres, total production is forecast at 63.8 million bushels. According to the Weekly Crop and Weather Report for the week ending October 4, corn harvest for grain was 51% complete, running ahead of the 5-year average of 42%.

Soybean yield is forecast at 41 bushels per acre, up 3 bushels per acre from the September 1 forecast, and 2 bushels short of the record-setting average yield of 43 bushels per acre in 2000. Growers expect to harvest 490,000 acres of soybeans, for a total production of 20.1 million bushels. Soybean harvest is beginning right on schedule, with 7% of the crop harvested as of October 4.

Tobacco production, based on October 1 conditions, is forecast at 1.76 million pounds, unchanged from the September 1 forecast. Yields are expected to be 1,600 pounds per acre, a record yield in Maryland. Harvested acreage remains at 1,100 acres, same as 2003.

Final estimates for small grains have been calculated. Total production of winter wheat is estimated to be 8.6 million bushels for the 2004 crop season, with 145,000 acres of **winter wheat** harvested and an average yield of 59.0 bushels per acre. Total production of **barley** is estimated to be 2.8 million bushels for the 2004 crop season, with 39,000 acres harvested and an average yield of 73.0 bushels per acre.

United States: **Corn** production is forecast at 11.6 billion bushels, up 6 percent from last month and 15 percent above 2003.



Based on conditions as of October 1, the yield is expected to average 158.4 bushels per acre, up 9.0 bushels from September and 16.2 bushels above last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest on record. The previous record for both was set last year when production was estimated at 10.1 billion bushels and yield was 142.2 bushels per acre. Yields are forecast at record high levels in all Corn Belt States, except Minnesota and Wisconsin, as weather conditions have been mostly favorable throughout the growing season. Farmers now expect to harvest 73.3 million acres of corn for grain, down 66,000 acres from September but up 3 percent from 2003.

Soybean production is forecast at 3.11 billion bushels, up 10 percent from the September forecast and 27 percent above 2003. If realized, this would be the largest U.S. soybean crop on record. Based on conditions as of October 1, yield is expected to average a record high 42.0 bushels per acre, up 3.5 bushels from September. Below-normal temperatures and adequate moisture during August and early September across most of the Corn Belt, Great Plains, and Delta were beneficial to the crop during the final stages of development. Above-normal temperatures followed, just in time for the beginning of the harvest season. Area planted is now estimated at 75.1 million acres, up 256,000 acres from the August estimate. Area for harvest is forecast at 74.0 million acres, up 335,000 from September.

Acreage, Yield, And Production, Maryland and United States 2003- 2004

Commodity	Unit	Planted		Harvested		Average Yield		Production	
		2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
Maryland		1,000 Acres						1,000	
Winter Wheat	BU	165	160	145	145	37	59	5,365	8,555
Barley	BU	43	42	36	39	57	73	2,052	2,847
Tobacco	LBS	--	--	1.1	1.1	1,450	1,600	1,595	1,760
Corn	BU	480	490	410	420	123	152	50,430	63,840
Soybeans	BU	435	500	430	490	37	41	15,910	20,090
United States		1,000,000						1,000,000	
Winter Wheat	BU	45,384	43,350	36,753	34,462	47	44	1,717	1,499
Barley	BU	5,348	4,527	4,727	4,031	59	70	278	280
Tobacco	LBS	--	--	411	410	1,952	2,156	803	883
Corn	BU	78,736	80,968	71,139	73,311	142	158	10,114	11,613
Soybeans	BU	73,404	75,065	72,476	73,990	34	42	2,454	3,107

HOGS AND PIGS

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 2004 was 61.4 million head. This was 1 percent above both September 1, 2003, and June 1, 2004. Breeding inventory, at 5.98 million head, was up 1 percent from September 1, 2003, and also up 1 percent from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 55.4 million head, was 1 percent above last year, and 2 percent above last quarter.

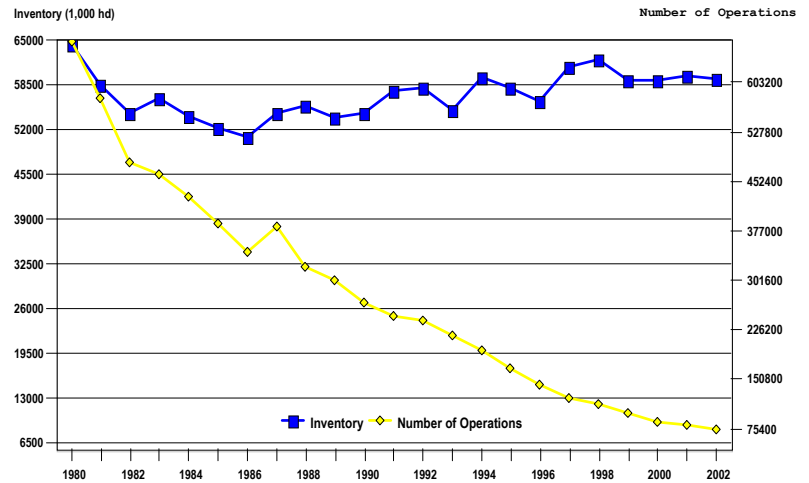
NUMBER OF SOWS, PIG CROP, AND PIGS PER LITTER, UNITED STATES, 2002-2004

Item	2002	2003	2004	2004/2003
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	
Sows Farrowing				
Dec-May ²	5,776	5,655	5,684	101
Jun-Nov ⁵	5,716	5,746	5,753	100
Pig Crop				
Dec-May ²	50,858	50,027	5,540	101
Jun-Nov	50,820	51,223	----	----
Pigs Per Litter				
Dec-May ²	8.81	8.85	8.89	101
Jun-Nov	8.89	8.91	----	----

² December preceding year

⁵ Actual farrowing for June-August plus intentions for Sept-Nov

December 1 Hog Inventory and Number of Hog Operations
United States, 1980-2002



HOGS AND PIGS, INVENTORY BY CLASS, UNITED STATES, SEPTEMBER 1, 2002-2004

Item	2002	2003	2004	2004/2003
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	
All Hogs/Pigs	60,753	60,859	61,384	101
Breeding	6,051	5,918	5,983	101
Market	54,702	54,941	55,400	101

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